

1 Partnow and I'm following my two colleagues,
2 Sarah and Alex. I'm also an independent
3 journalist with the Common Language Project here
4 in Seattle.

5 Tonight a lot of people have talked
6 about how crucial things like investigative
7 journalism and a government that's both
8 responsible and responsive are to having a
9 functional and vibrant democracy.

10 But something that I've really been
11 thinking about tonight is how much my job is like
12 your jobs, Commissioners. You know we all work
13 to serve the public interest, right?

14 And when you guys are doing your jobs,
15 when you listen to us and when you use what we
16 say to shape the decisions that you make, you're
17 giving power to the powerless. So likewise, when
18 a journalist tells a story that -- of corruption
19 or repression or abuse of power, they're giving
20 voice to the voiceless, right?

21 The powerless and the voiceless, they
22 need our help. They need the help of journalist.

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1 They need the help of you in government serving
2 the public interest.

3 Corporations don't need your help.
4 And I think that's what you're facing right now
5 is a choice. You can do the bidding of the
6 corporate giants that want to become more giant.
7 You can choose to give more power to the already
8 powerful, or you can choose to listen to the
9 hundreds of people here tonight and the hundreds
10 more that wanted to be here and stop media
11 consolidation.

12 I know also that you guys get to talk
13 to lobbyists all the time. You know Clear
14 Channel and Disney aren't here tonight, but they
15 probably have time for lunch next week. This is
16 the only time that we get to talk to you, so
17 listen.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

21 Before I announce the next speaker,
22 would the following people come forward: Alan

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1 Lyndstrum, David Pattison, David Moore, Elizabeth
2 Davis, Fletcher Davis, Dave Leffmann, Maggie
3 Aeuner, Randy Rowland, Tom Evans Krause, Roland
4 March.

5 And we're now on speaker No. 106. We
6 closed registration with 281 people that want to
7 speak. I would encourage everybody the best we
8 can to move quickly from speaker to speaker. And
9 if everyone could please honor the time limit,
10 it's very important.

11 Liz Brown.

12 MS. BROWN: Good evening. My name is
13 Liz Brown. And I'm a proud member of CWA Local
14 37082, the Pacific Northwest Newspaper Guild,
15 which represents 1000 media and printing
16 employees in Washington state. I also sit on the
17 executive board of the Martin Luther King, Jr.,
18 County Labor Council, which represents 77,000
19 union members.

20 Last month the council adopted a
21 resolution opposing the rule changes that would
22 contribute further to media ownership

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1 consolidation. And I have copies of that
2 resolution for your record.

3 We opposed regulatory changes because
4 it is corporate owners and shareholders, not
5 telecommunications employees, not journalists,
6 not musicians, not writers, nor artists, not
7 actors, and certainly not media consumers who
8 would benefit from them.

9 Smaller media companies and their
10 employees will be crushed if you allow
11 conglomerates to buy more, own more, and control
12 more. Last year the local paper that I used to
13 report for, the King County Journal, closed after
14 it was purchased by Canada's Black Press Media
15 chain.

16 Dozens of employees lost their jobs.
17 The locally owned Seattle Times could face a
18 deadly struggle if the Hurst Corporation, which
19 owns the Seattle Post Intelligencer, were to buy
20 a TV station here. We have lost local media
21 voices and local working family jobs, and we
22 don't want to lose more.

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1 National media conglomerates don't
2 respond to competition with investment in
3 employees and better products. They cut jobs to
4 maintain profit margins. They outsource work,
5 hiring people in India to remotely report on
6 events here. That's the truth. It's the
7 Wal-Mart-ization of news.

8 Do you really want to get your news
9 from Wal-Mart? Hell no. Please say no to
10 expansion of corporate control over --

11 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

12 MS. BROWN: -- our media.

13 Thank you.

14 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Diane Brennan.

15 MS. BRENNAN: Good evening, gentlemen.

16 My name is Diane Brennan, and I'm a resident of
17 Kenmore, Washington. I'm here to appeal to you
18 to prevent further consolidation and to consider
19 the residents of small cities that are close to
20 large markets. Kenmore is a small city of 18,000
21 on the north end of Lake Washington.

22 People who live in small cities get

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1 the short end of the stick during media
2 consolidation because from the perspective of the
3 media owners who own multiple outlets we have too
4 small a pool of dollars to interest advertisers
5 in comparison to the large cities that surround
6 us, so the newspapers' money goes toward putting
7 reporters on issues in the largest markets at the
8 expense of people in small markets.

9 This may serve to fill the malls with
10 the maximum number of people in a particular
11 region, but it doesn't serve democracy for the
12 people who live in a small city.

13 How does this hurt democracy? Well,
14 to give my city as an example, a group of
15 residents in our city discovered that our city
16 council elections in 2004 were financed by a
17 group that lived outside of our city. That group
18 placed several members on our city council, and
19 subsequently the city council used city tax
20 dollars to push forth that group's agenda, even
21 though the majority of residents in the city were
22 against that agenda shown in a referenda.

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1 In short, city residents ended up
2 paying the tax dollars for an agenda they didn't
3 want for a group that is not in our city. Our
4 city lacks sidewalks along the road that lead to
5 our children's schools, but our city's coffers
6 were hijacked by a group of people who live in
7 another community.

8 Voters in my city came out on the
9 short -- or the losing end because we don't have
10 media watching over the interest in our city. We
11 have a city newspaper, which is also part of the
12 group of newspapers that the previous person
13 discussed. And it's owned by a group in Canada,
14 and Kenmore is nothing more than an ellipsis in
15 this group's portfolio.

16 Voters need to be aware of --

17 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

18 MS. BRENNAN: -- what's going on in
19 their city.

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very
21 much.

22 (Applause.)

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1 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Sami Muilenburg.

2 MS. MUILENBURG: Hi. I'm Sami
3 Muilenburg, or actually maybe I'm not. Maybe I'm
4 just one of the thousands of voices, some that
5 are here and some that couldn't make it to talk
6 to you about this issue.

7 All I really want to say is that you
8 should stop media consolidation because it's not
9 helping the locals. We -- America is a diverse
10 place. It's a beautiful, cultural experience.
11 Everybody who is here is here for a reason
12 because they want to be here, and they also want
13 a voice in our media. And I was just telling you
14 to respect that voice, if you can.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Alan Lyndstrum.
18 Alan Lyndstrum. David Pattison.

19 MR. PATTISON: I'm a Christian, first
20 of all, and I'm a Republican, and I'm a
21 conservative.

22 AUDIENCE: Use the mic.

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1 MR. PATTISON: Oh, I'm sorry.

2 I am not for anything that the
3 democrats here in Seattle are for.

4 But I live here, and I've been living
5 here for ten years watching this media sham of
6 papers, Times and Intelligencer. I don't know
7 why they even call it Intelligencer because it's
8 not intelligent. Okay? It's a Communist rag.
9 The Times and the Intelligencer are. And if you
10 guys, Democrats, you want to believe in that, go
11 ahead, you know. But don't force it down my
12 throat. Okay.

13 Now, you're Republicans, right? Okay.
14 I'm a Republican. I support you. Okay. And I
15 have supported Republicans all my life. Now, I
16 don't hate Democrats, you know, but I support my
17 point of view. That's all I came here for. And
18 you can save your opinion to yourself.

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

20 David Moore. Elizabeth Davis.

21 MS. DAVIS: My name is Elizabeth
22 Davis. I'm a retired attorney, and as a

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1 volunteer, I volunteer with several organizations
2 that are basically working on programs and
3 legislation that benefits the community as a
4 whole.

5 Our democratic system of government
6 depends on an informed citizenry. People become
7 informed in many, many ways, among the most
8 significant being media, radio, and TV. By
9 relaxing the limitations on media ownership, the
10 public sources of information and ideas will be
11 increasingly limited. Public understanding
12 depends on a diversity of viewpoints and a
13 variety of news sources. These proposals under
14 consideration undermine both the freedom of
15 speech and of the press that are guaranteed to us
16 by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

17 Please just say no to these proposals.

18 Thank you.

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

20 Fletcher Davis.

21 MR. DAVIS: I'm Fletcher Davis.

22 As we are frequently reminded by

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1 breaking news around the globe, effective
2 democracy depends on an informed electorate.
3 Secrecy and single source information is
4 therefore inimical to the kind of sound decision
5 making that we who voted last Tuesday were asked
6 to make.

7 Cost containment and efficiency are
8 hallmarks of effective business administration,
9 and if a single entity controls multiple media
10 outlets in a community, the number of reporters
11 assigned to cover the story will tend to be fewer
12 and the perspectives accordingly limited.

13 In this matter good business is not
14 good democracy. When media are owned by national
15 companies, local news gets less coverage, and yet
16 we're asked to vote for more local candidates and
17 measures than national.

18 Effective decision making is further
19 hampered not only by decisions of media owners
20 but even by the selection of what is not
21 reported.

22 For these and other cogent reasons

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1 articulated well by other witnesses this evening,
2 I urge you to vote for democracy by voting no on
3 the proposed rule changes.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

7 Dave Leffmann.

8 MR. LEFFMANN. I'm No. 114.

9 AUDIENCE: Microphone.

10 MR. LEFFMANN: There we go. Is that
11 better?

12 I'm No. 114. Thank you for
13 dedication, and you're probably a bit tired, as
14 we all are I think. But I think it's been pretty
15 overwhelming. I know that it's difficult for any
16 leader in our government to hear beyond the
17 interests of those with funds and influence.

18 As key regulators of the media, you
19 stand as a governor against, against forces of
20 both monetary power, huge monetary power, and
21 huge societal influence. Your job and your duty
22 is to protect multifaceted free press.

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1 The citizenry of -- is the most
2 important check on excessive power. The flow of
3 education and information to that citizenry is
4 vital to our republic. If you love your country,
5 if you are -- if you are at all a patriot, if you
6 believe in what our founding fathers tried to
7 protect in our Constitution, you will do your job
8 despite the forces that stand against you.

9 We rely on you. We're your country.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. LEFFMANN: I know it's short. But
12 I was reading the stock report from News Corp,
13 and I'd just like to give a little quote from
14 Rupert Murdoch. "Over the past two years we've
15 begun to transform our company from a traditional
16 media giant into a digital juggernaut."

17 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

18 Maggie Aeuner.

19 MS. AEUNER: Hello. My name is Maggie
20 Aeuner. I recently spoke to you at a public
21 hearing in Portland, Maine, and have since moved
22 to the Pacific Northwest. I must confess that

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1 I'm a bit distraught by the feeling that the FCC
2 is following me, but I do appreciate the
3 opportunity to speak for another two minutes.

4 Having been to two of these hearings
5 I've begun to see some patterns in the things
6 that are said. The most obvious pattern is that
7 the media conglomerates say that they are serving
8 the public adequately, while the public says they
9 are not.

10 I'd like to comment on two specific
11 arguments I've heard broadcasters make repeatedly
12 and explain why I think they are inaccurate.
13 First, I've heard many broadcasters argue that
14 they serve the public interest because they raise
15 money for charities.

16 While I do appreciate the fund raising
17 efforts of these broadcasters, I want to remind
18 everyone that the role of the media is to provide
19 us with information, not money. It is not enough
20 for the radio or TV stations to collect food for
21 those who are hungry if they don't tell us why
22 people are hungry in our community.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MS. AEUNER: Second, I've heard big
3 broadcasters commend themselves for airing public
4 service announcements via the emergency alert
5 system. However, radio stations are required by
6 law to play these announcements. Additionally,
7 once they install the necessary equipment, they
8 don't have to do anything beyond an occasional
9 test to insure that the system functions.

10 I will not be satisfied until these
11 broadcasters do something beyond this passive
12 bear minimum to keep me informed. I encourage
13 you to listen to the citizens who are here asking
14 you to stop media consolidation rather than
15 selling out to the higher bidders who own the
16 media.

17 Your job is to regulate the public
18 airwaves in the public interest, not the
19 corporate interest.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

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1 Randy Rowland.

2 MR. ROWLAND: Randy Rowland of Pepper
3 Spray Productions. We're a local Indymedia video
4 collective in Seattle.

5 We went down to Oregon to cover the
6 story of farm workers who couldn't buy air time
7 to get their constituents to go out to march in
8 the big immigration marches. Their money wasn't
9 good enough to buy the means to communicate with
10 their own people.

11 We also covered a story that turned
12 out to be wrong. You know it was a big defeat
13 for me. You know I really believed in that
14 story, and then a bunch of right wing bloggers
15 figured out that we were full of bologna. It was
16 a defeat for me, but it was a success for
17 journalism, if you think about it. It seems like
18 that's what diversity is all about when you get
19 down to it.

20 The other thing I want to talk about
21 is a fellow came up to me at work the other day.
22 I worked with him for 18 years now, a right

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1 winger. He sits there and reads his bible in the
2 lunchroom. He came up to me and he was quite
3 distraught, and he says, "I just found out that
4 water boarding wasn't about surfing." And he was
5 serious.

6 (Laughter.)

7 MR. ROWLAND: And I kind of think
8 that's a victory for media, because that guy
9 finally came to understand that America is
10 drowning people, and that occurs to me as a
11 victory for media.

12 Now, you guys have a chance, just like
13 that guy, who was a decent person, even though he
14 and I differ politically, you have a chance. You
15 have a chance to do something for the country,
16 but only if you go the right way.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

20 Before I announce the next speaker,
21 would the following people please come towards
22 the microphones: Jim Scancella, Mary Beth Lambe,

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1 Linda Boyd, Robert Grubbs, Patricia Tyllia, Sandy
2 Schoolfield, Sigrid Salo, Vincent Sulino, Biefke
3 Vos, Maggie Abener.

4 Tom Evans Krause.

5 AUDIENCE: What number is this?

6 MODERATOR SIGALOS: 117.

7 MR. REESE: Hi. My name is Ian Reese.
8 I'm here representing my journalism professor,
9 Tom Evans Krause, who had to leave because had
10 some family things to take care of.

11 But I'm the former program director
12 and the current music director of 89.9 KJRG down
13 in Auburn, one of the few non-commercial radio
14 stations left in the state.

15 Mr. Martin, I just wanted to convey to
16 you how ashamed I feel as a young American
17 sometimes when the same administration that put
18 you in the seat you're in is also the same
19 administration that's the exact reason that our
20 global community and the very meaning of
21 democracy is balancing on the edge of a knife.

22 And I can't tell you how ashamed I am

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1 when I tune in to MSNBC or Fox News and see a two
2 hour special about how Britney Spears is going to
3 lose her God damn kids. I don't know care about
4 that. Young people in America don't care about
5 those kinds of things.

6 And unless you stop consolidation now,
7 America's so much more likely to fall back into
8 that ignorant laziness that made it so easy for
9 us to accept our current Iraqi situation, if
10 that's what you want to call it.

11 And I just want you to remember me and
12 look at me because some day when you're drooling
13 in your adult Depends, I'm going to be the one on
14 TV bringing you your news. And so I want you to
15 remember that and remember me because young
16 people of this country are mad.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. REESE: We've don't have to take
19 it anymore. We don't have to. I'm so glad that
20 we have all these people here who have the
21 opportunity to come to you with our issues
22 because it's so often that it's suits, like you,

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1 just talk and talk and talk without listening.
2 So I wanted to thank you for that.

3 And, Commissioner Adelstein, if you
4 ever need an intern or assistant who's fired up
5 and ready to go, I'm ready to go tonight. Here's
6 my information right here for you. I'm ready to
7 leave town tonight.

8 (Applause.)

9 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Roland March. Jim
10 Scancella. Mary Beth Lambe.

11 MS. LAMBE: My name is Mary Beth
12 Lambe, and I live at Fernhill Farm in Sammamish.
13 As a baby boomer and a mother of seven, I've had
14 quite an opportunity to gain perspective on the
15 changes I have seen in media ownership and rules.

16 Through the 1940s until the 1970s
17 public rights were honored. Local ownership rule
18 and national TV laws were enacted. It all fell
19 apart during Reagan's reign, didn't it?

20 In 2002 a train carrying hazardous
21 material derailed Minot, North Dakota, spilling
22 210,000 gallons of anhydrous ammonia. Clear

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1 Channel owned six out of the seven stations in
2 that town. When authorities tried to call the
3 stations to get them to announce this
4 catastrophic spreading cloud, no one would make
5 even an announcement. Clear Channel didn't even
6 answer their phones.

7 What do I hope for? Certainly not the
8 Orwellian takeover by Chairman Powell and the
9 greedy few media capitalists that have been
10 allowed to write the rules. I want what we had
11 before the rich media players got in and rewrote
12 the books to make themselves even richer.

13 I prefer local voices to consolidated
14 national broadcast. I want local music and
15 culture. I want a wide range of voices and
16 viewpoints. I want quality journalism and media
17 that is accountable to our media values.

18 Just six corporations control more
19 than half of everything Americans watch, listen
20 to, or read every day. We need policies designed
21 to give us more, not less media ownership by
22 minorities; more, not less media access for

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1 Native Americans and immigrants; more, not less
2 community access to the airwaves; more, not less
3 quality journalism instead of racist, sexist,
4 shock jocks and overheated hackery.

5 (Applause.)

6 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

7 Linda Boyd.

8 MS. BOYD: Hello. My name is Linda
9 Boyd. And I'm here to say that I oppose media
10 consolidation. As director of Washington for
11 Impeachment, I can tell you that the consolidated
12 media has failed to provide an outlet for the
13 voice of the activists in our community.

14 We own our airwaves, and it's
15 important that our rights to the public comments
16 are not restricted by the corporations who wish
17 to profit from us.

18 Big questions are studiously avoided
19 by the consolidated corporate media. After six
20 years of the state of emergency, the Military
21 Commissions Act, the Patriot Act, there are some
22 very big questions I have about why people don't

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1 know what those are. Why doesn't the public know
2 that we torture on a regular basis? Why doesn't
3 the public know why this illegal war in Iraq is
4 being prosecuted? Why doesn't the public know
5 that over \$447 billion has been spent on an
6 illegal and immoral war, and that is just for
7 official appropriations?

8 These dialogues, these constructive,
9 democratic, informative dialogues are imperative
10 to the continued life of a Constitutional
11 republic. Why haven't we already impeached Bush
12 and Cheney?

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. BOYD. Here in Seattle, why isn't
15 it all over the news that the \$1 billion we need
16 for the 520 bridge is only half of the cost of
17 the war we've already paid out?

18 I'm here to --

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

20 MS. BOYD: -- oppose media
21 consolidation.

22 Thank you, gentlemen.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Robert Grubbs.
3 Patricia Tyllia.

4 MS. TYLLIA: Hi. My name is Patricia
5 Tyllia, and I live here in Capital Hill. I'm a
6 writer. When I tell a story, I do the best I
7 can. I gather all my information. I do my
8 research. And then I go to my colleagues because
9 I need other points of view. I need to hear what
10 it is I haven't gotten in the story because I'm
11 so wrapped up in my point of view I can't get
12 beyond it. I need help to get there. I need
13 other points of view.

14 In the same way I think owners who
15 have -- of media have their own lenses. They
16 can't help it. I don't think that's bad when you
17 make decisions about what gets published and what
18 doesn't. Something, someone has to make those
19 decisions.

20 What I think might be troubling is
21 when we don't have enough opinions out there. We
22 don't have enough different points of view,

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1 enough lenses we're looking through, that we're
2 going to miss some of that information we don't
3 even know we need to ask about. We don't even
4 know the questions we don't know until we get
5 those other points of view and they make us
6 think. They make us question. Because from my
7 own experience I relate that to what we're going
8 through here with the media.

9 As a citizen of the U.S., I want more
10 than a few opinions and ideas about my country.
11 I want more stations, not fewer. Please
12 reconsider and do not allow further ownership of
13 multiple media sources. Please consider FCC
14 regulation reform.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

18 Sandy Schoolfield.

19 MS. SCHOOLFIELD: Good evening. I'm
20 Sandy Schoolfield. Thank you so much for being
21 here. I'm here mostly as a private citizen, but
22 I also am on the Board of the Washington News

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